

Name _____ Date _____

From Tadpole to Frog

Do you like to jump? How far can you jump? When most people think of frogs, they think of jumping. Frogs' legs are designed to help them swim when they are in the water and jump when they are on land. Frogs' legs help them move from place to place and to escape possible danger. However, frogs are not born jumping around. In fact, frogs are not born with legs at all! Frogs must go through many different stages in their lives before they can jump on land.

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Each frog starts out as a tiny black spot in a little egg. The tiny frog egg is called a spawn. Frogs lay a lot of eggs. A frog can lay up to 4,000 eggs! The eggs stick together and have a jelly-like gel around them. This helps to protect the eggs. However, there are a lot of things that can happen to tiny little frog eggs. Eggs can be eaten, broken, or washed away. Only about half of the eggs will hatch. Sometimes, the mother may stay with the eggs to take care of them. Sometimes, the mother may leave and not come back to the eggs. A baby frog stays in the egg for 6 to 21 days before it comes out.

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When the baby frogs leave their eggs, they are called tadpoles. The tadpoles are a green or brown color. This helps them hide in the algae.* Many fish will eat the tadpoles that do not hide. Tadpoles live in the water and have gills like a fish. In the beginning, the tadpoles are not very strong. They hook to algae and float. The tadpoles will start swimming around more and eating the algae after about a week. The tadpoles will stay together and swim.

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After the baby frog has been a tadpole for about a month, it starts to change again. The tadpole grows skin over its gills. It starts growing lungs so it will be able to breathe on land. The little tadpole also starts to grow back legs. As it grows more, the tadpole can eat bugs and some plants. The tadpole is stronger and does not hide as much.

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When it is six to nine weeks old, the little tadpole grows front legs. Its lungs begin working. The tadpole's mouth gets bigger and it looks more like a frog. Many people call this little frog a froglet. Unlike a frog, the froglet still has its tail. By the time it is twelve weeks old, the little froglet will just have a tiny tail and will begin living on land.

* **algae:** organisms that grow in water

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The frog will stay and live near the water. It will go back to cool down and swim. Then, one day female frogs will go into the water and lay eggs of their own. Little tadpoles will come out of the eggs, and the whole cycle begins again.

Frogs are one of the only animals that begin their lives in the water with gills and then grow lungs to live on the land. They go through many different stages to get from the tiny spot in a jelly egg to a big, hopping frog.

- 1 How are the sentences in the first paragraph connected?
 - A They help the reader understand why frogs hop and jump.
 - B They help the reader understand the importance of frogs' legs.
 - C They explain how to catch a tadpole and raise a frog.
 - D They explain how the frog goes through life cycles.

- 2 How are the sentences in paragraph 2 connected?
 - A They all tell about frog eggs.
 - B They all tell about the stages of a frog's life.
 - C They all tell about how frog mothers care for their eggs.
 - D They all tell about what happens after a baby frog hatches from its egg.

- 3 How are the sentences in paragraph 3 connected?
 - A They explain how tadpoles breathe.
 - B They explain how tadpoles eat food.
 - C They explain the color of a tadpole.
 - D They explain the early life of a tadpole.

- 4 What is the connection between paragraphs 4 and 5?
- A Both tell about how frogs change during their life.
 - B Both describe how tadpoles survive by hiding.
 - C Both describe how tadpoles are able to live on land.
 - D Both tell about how frogs are able to live in the water.
- 5 What is the connection between paragraphs 5 and 6?
- A Both explain where frogs live at different stages.
 - B Both explain what frogs eat on land.
 - C Both explain how long tadpoles stay in water.
 - D Both explain how tadpoles learn to breathe.